

Answers: 1(c); 2(d); 3(e); 4(d); 5(e); 6(e); 7(d); 8(e); 9(c); 10(b) or (e).

You don't need to score 100% before you talk about this problem with your kids.

You simply have to let them know how you feel about the problem and warn them of the dangers.

Don't be put off if your words don't seem to register. What does register is not so much what you say, but the fact you care enough to be concerned. Kids have a name for this kind of parental involvement. Love.

A good first step is simply to clip this text and put it up on your refrigerator.

Your kids may make jokes about it. But they'll get it.

For more information call, 1-800-729-6686.

Many States, including Oregon, have begun a campaign to inform children and their parents about inhalant abuse. We must begin our own fight at the national level. The Senate recently passed identical legislation unanimously. It is time that we give this issue due credit in the House and begin this crusade to educate ourselves and our children about this terrible problem.

MEDALS OF HONOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some good news about well-deserved recognition of three American heroes and the role of the Congress in attaining their highest honor and distinction in our country.

Four years ago, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 created a process to permit Members of Congress to obtain reviews of military decoration recommendations for merit, even though the time limits established in the law would normally preclude such consideration.

Since then, many heroic acts have been properly but belatedly recognized. Many of these heroic acts would have gone unnoticed had it not been for Members of Congress demanding fair hearings of the facts and circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, today I want to focus on three cases of valor which Congress will soon formally recognize by making possible the award of our Nation's highest decoration for bravery and combat, the Medal of Honor.

I will start with the recommendation from my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING), that Corporal Andrew J. Smith of the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on November 30, 1864, at the Civil War Battle of Honey Hill in South Carolina.

Mr. Smith, from Clinton, Illinois, volunteered to serve in the 55th Massachusetts. The battle that day had brought the 55th to a narrow bridge in

front of a Confederate stronghold on the hill. The 55th joined another regiment in filing across the bridge in the face of withering enemy fire.

The officers leading the charge were killed immediately. The commander was wounded and trapped under his dead horse.

In a fight that would see one-half the unit's officers and a third of the enlisted men killed or wounded, the regimental colors, that critical symbol that is the heart of any unit, had been put at risk.

The flag bearer had been blown to pieces by an exploding shell. Corporal Smith ignored his own safety and grabbed the regimental colors from the hand of the dead sergeant. He then maneuvered through the heavy grape and canister being fired at close range and carried the colors to safety, thereby leading his men.

His actions are of conspicuous valor and, therefore, worthy of the Medal of Honor.

The next case involves the recommendation from Senator DANIEL AKAKA to award the Medal of Honor posthumously to Technician Fifth Grade James K. Okubo, Medical Detachment, 442 Regimental Combat Team, for his actions on October 28, 29, and November 4 of 1944 near Biffontaine, France.

Technician Fifth Grade Okubo and his compatriots in the highly decorated Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team had fought through Italy and were engaging German forces in France in the fall of 1944.

During the battle, while subjected to continuous machine gun, mortar, and artillery fire, this soldier coolly and efficiently rendered first aid to 25 wounded soldiers. On two occasions, he crawled 150 yards to points within 40 yards of enemy lines to evacuate wounded comrades.

On November 4, he ran 75 yards through deadly machine gun fire, and while exposed to intense enemy fire directed at him, he evacuated a seriously wounded crewman from a burning tank.

His actions on these days are of conspicuous valor and, therefore, make him worthy of the Medal of Honor.

The third case involves the recommendation by Senator JOHN MCCAIN to award the Medal of Honor to Captain Ed W. Freeman, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, for his actions on November 14, 1965, at landing zone X-ray during the battle of the I Drang Valley, the Republic of Vietnam.

Captain Freeman was flying resupply missions into the now famous landing zone X-ray, one of the hottest and most embattled LZs of the Vietnam War.

U.S. forces were reporting heavy casualties and a shortage of water and supplies. The Medevac helicopter had tried to land but was driven off by intense enemy fire.

Despite these dangers, Captain Freeman ignored the enemy fire and repeatedly flew into the landing zone X-ray carrying in supplies and lifting out the wounded. He flew a total of 14 missions to a landing zone that was just 100 meters from the defensive perimeter, and he evacuated 30 seriously wounded soldiers from the LZ that would not have otherwise lived. He quit flying that day several hours after dark only after all the wounded had been evacuated.

His actions are of conspicuous valor and, therefore, worthy of the Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that the legal barriers that have prevented these heroes from being recognized will be lifted in legislation soon to be enacted by Congress.

As a result, these heroic individuals will soon be recipients of the Medal of Honor and we have set the record straight and we have touched for a moment that which is at the heart of our pride in being American.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again on the floor of the House of Representatives to call upon this House to pass prescription drug coverage for senior citizens and those who are disabled under Medicare and to work for other strategies to lower the cost of prescription drugs for all family members.

Today in particular, I am rising to read a letter, as I am every week now rising to share a letter from one of my constituents in Michigan. This week I would like to read a letter from a 76-year-old woman who is a breast cancer survivor from Fenton, Michigan. She is the widow of a disabled veteran.

I want to speak more about the fact that we need to be focused on our veterans who do not have prescription drug coverage and are struggling to pay the cost of their medications. Now, as we are approaching Memorial Day, we need to be honoring them by addressing this serious health care issue.

But first let me read the letter.

Dear Mrs. Stabenow, I am writing to you concerning the high cost of prescription drugs, which, I believe, you are on a campaign to cut the cost of for senior citizens who are on a fixed income and need these drugs.

I am the widow of a disabled veteran, who, at the age of 32, was on total disability. I went to work to help out, as we needed the extra money. We had two children. My mother lived with us and took care of the children.

My mother became too ill to take care of them, so I had to quit my job and stay home. It was hard financially, but we managed to get by, living on a strict budget. My husband's disability was a condition that he needed me around him all the time. When

the boys got older, I tried to work again, but my husband begged me to stay home with him, which I did.

My husband died when he was 50. I was able to save a little money, which I intended to use to enjoy a little more life than I had been able to.

In 1995, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, which I went through and got on with my life. In December 1999, I had another mastectomy, which I hope I will recover from as well as I did in the case of my first mastectomy.

Since the time I was diagnosed with cancer, the cost of my drugs has spiraled up and up. I live on a fixed income. I also have to pay for health insurance. Believe me, I am not complaining, "poor little me." There are many people worse off than me, and this is why I am writing. Maybe my letter will help others.

I will give you an estimate of what I am paying every month for drugs.

She proceeds through a long list. Her cancer medication is \$180 for 31 tablets. Her high blood pressure medication is \$21 for a month's supply. Her blood thinner medication is \$20 for a month. Nasal spray is \$58 for a month. And on and on.

The total for each month for my constituent is \$377.85 and it continues to go up and up, as she indicates in her letter.

She indicates here that she hopes that everyone who needs these drugs will be able to afford them and live a healthier life.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise, as we approach Memorial Day, to recognize the fact that not only my constituent from Fenton, Michigan, but four million veterans and four million spouses of veterans in this country have no help for their prescription drug coverage. We are talking about people who were willing to lay their lives on the line.

This Monday we will honor those who gave their lives in service for our Nation. And in light of this and these statistics, I believe we need to call upon all of us to act immediately to address the issue of the high cost of prescription drugs, particularly for our older Americans where we have the opportunity by just simply passing Medicare coverage, by modernizing Medicare, to cover the way health care is provided today with prescription drug coverage.

We can honor our veterans by fulfilling the promise of health care that was made to them. Each one of our servicemen and women, as they come to the service of our country, they sign on the dotted line; and we, in return, indicate to them the promise of health care. Not only are we not fulfilling the health care promise to our veterans as it relates to full funding health care for our veterans, but when we have 4 million of our veterans, 4 million of their spouses that do not have any access to help cover their prescription drug coverage, we need to act. There is something wrong; and we need to take it very, very seriously.

It is not right when someone who has cared for her disabled husband, some-

one who is a disabled veteran, his wife, who goes on to have health care problems herself, who has saved a little bit in her life now finds herself using all of those little bit of savings in order to pay for her medication and then find herself on a fixed income paying almost \$400 a month for medications.

We need to act. It is time now to lower the cost of prescription drugs and to modernize Medicare.

COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES PASSES BILL TO PURCHASE BACA RANCH IN NEW MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on Resources passed a bill to purchase the Baca Ranch in New Mexico. This is a very bad deal for the taxpayers.

The family that owns this ranch bought it in 1961 for \$2.1 million. Now, under the bill passed out of committee today, the Federal Government is going to pay \$101 million for this property, almost 50 times the original purchase price.

I would bet almost everyone in this Nation would like to sell their property for 50 times what they paid for it.

□ 1845

This is a colossal rip-off of the taxpayers. My office yesterday asked the Congressional Research Service to run the numbers for us. According to CRS, there has been a 452 percent inflation since 1961. Adjusted for inflation, this property should be worth \$11.7 million, or about 5½ times the original purchase price.

We definitely should not be paying \$101 million for property that was bought for \$2.1 million, and today adjusted for inflation should be worth \$11.7 million. This is welfare for the rich, a windfall for the wealthy.

However, it will be passed by a huge margin, because it has strong bipartisan support in New Mexico. I watched a tape about this property. It is beautiful; however, the most overused word in this Congress is the word pristine. We are constantly told that we have to buy this property or that property, because it is beautiful and pristine, but if the Federal Government tried to buy every beautiful, pristine piece of property in this country, it would bankrupt our government and shatter our economy, besides the Federal Government already owns 37 percent of New Mexico, millions of acres.

The Federal Government certainly does not need any more of New Mexico; it has too much already. Private property is one of the main foundations of our prosperity. It is one of the cornerstones of our freedom. Private property is one of the main things that has set

us apart from socialist and Communist nations.

Already the Federal Government owns 30 percent of the land in this Nation. State and local governments and quasigovernmental units own another 20 percent, half the land in some type of public ownership.

Also we keep putting more and more restrictions, limitations, rules, regulations, redtape on the land that does remain in private hands. If we keep doing away with private property, we are going to drive up prices for homes and cause much serious damage to our economy. We will hurt the poor and working people the most and those of middle income.

We should not waste the taxpayers money in this way. We should not rip off the taxpayers in this way. \$101 million for property bought for \$2.1 million is more than 4,000 percent higher than what it should be when adjusted for inflation. We should not take money from lower- and middle-income Americans to pay a family almost 50 times what they paid for their property.

Mr. Speaker, \$101 million for property originally bought for \$2.1 million is simply too much. The Baca Ranch purchase will pass this Congress overwhelmingly; but I repeat, Mr. Speaker, this is a colossal rip-off of the taxpayers of this Nation.

FEARS OVER CHANGES IN SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM PROPOSED BY GOVERNOR BUSH OF TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KING). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to use the entire hour this evening, but I want to take what time I have to discuss my fears, and I stress fears, this evening over the changes in the Social Security system that have been proposed by Governor Bush of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security has lifted millions of seniors out of poverty. It is, by far, the most successful economic program ever passed by Congress, and the reasons for the success are simple. It offers a guaranteed, and I stress guaranteed, benefit for every American retiree. More than half of all Americans, especially working families, have no retirement savings beyond Social Security.

Without the guaranteed income provided by Social Security, millions of seniors could fall through the cracks left to live out their lives in poverty. Recently, Governor George Bush proposed a Social Security plan that would undermine Social Security, in my opinion, and simultaneously threaten our thriving economy.